Social Services on the Basis of Harm Reduction Projects in Russia

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Working with IDUs: challenges

- Multiple social problems (absence of documents and housing, family problems)
- Criminal aspects of drug use
- Substitution therapy not available
- Focus on prevention programmes, not on interventions to improve the quality of life
- Lack of governmental services for IDUs
The other side

- IDUs are a hidden group
- Social services find it difficult to reach them

Harm reduction projects establish the missing links between social services and IDUs
Client Management Project

• **AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW)** implements the Client Management Project in 8 regions of Russia

• Target groups – IDUs, PLHIV and ex-inmates

• Social Bureau for IDUs affiliated with local harm reduction projects
Regional changes brought about by client management

Before the project

Within the project
## Settings

Eight harm reduction projects became a basis for Social Bureaus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Angarsk</th>
<th>Kazan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irkutsk</td>
<td>Naberezhnye Chelny</td>
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<td>Zlatoust</td>
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Clients of Social Bureaus

- Angarsk: 230
- Irkutsk: 238
- Voronezh: 298
- Chelyabinsk: 205
- Zlatoust: 95
- Kazan: 199
- Tomsk: 87
- Nab.: 103
- Chelny: 103
- All clients
- IDUs
Social Bureaus’ Services

- Nab. Chelny: 260
- Tomsk: 1891
- Kazan: 1936
- Zlatoust: 739
- Chelyabinsk: 927
- Voronezh: 2064
- Irkutsk: 1552
- Angarsk: 1435

Most popular services (1)

- Assistance in obtaining medical services, including those related to HIV, TB and hepatitis (counselling, treatment, adherence)
- Drug treatment services (detox, rehabilitation)
- Psychological support
Most popular services (2)

• Social care (food, clothes, etc.)
• Employment
• Help in restoring documents
• Legal aid
Conclusion

• Harm reduction projects have established access to the hidden groups of IDUs and can involve them in client management programmes

• Intersectoral collaboration provides for expanded access of IDUs to medical and social services and improves the quality of their lives
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